

NOTE ON TWO SPECIES OF HELICINA.

BY C. F. ANCEY.

1. *Helicina Rabei* Pils., recently described in the NAUTILUS from specimens collected by Dr. Rabe, must be the same as the previously described *H. rufocallosa* Anc., based on the examples long ago distributed by Dr. J. D. E. Schmeltz, of the Museum Godeffroy, under the erroneous name of *H. Fischeriana*¹ Montr. (which may be identical with "*H. Picheriana*" of Paetel's Catalogue). The species is from Peleliu, Pelew Islands, and the color is very variable. The type specimen is grayish with a red basal callosity, but I have, since I published *H. rufocallosa*, procured other specimens having different shades of coloring.

2. *Helicina Funcki* Pfeiffer, originally described from New Granada (Funck), is also found at Greytown, Nicaragua. It has also been detected on Monkey Hill, near Colon, Isthmus of Panama, by Mr. Aillaud. The size of the two specimens collected in the latter spot is different, one of them being considerably smaller and tinged with pink-red on the last whorl.

OXYCHONA UNMASKED.

BY H. A. PILSBRY.

Those who have interested themselves in South American land shells will recall the group *Oxychona* of Mörch, containing a few acutely keeled, trochus-shaped Brazilian species, the best known of which is *Helix bifasciata* Burrow.

In Costa Rica and southern and eastern Mexico there are some similar Helices which had been placed in *Geotrochus*, *Corasia*, etc., but which the present writer in 1889² transferred to *Oxychona*. This disposition also commended itself to von Martens, who in 1893,³ adopts the same view. In my "Guide to the Study of Helices," 1894, no doubt was expressed regarding the alliance of the

¹ The true *Fischeriana* is a larger shell, allied to *rufocallosa* (= *Rabei*) and is probably confined to the islands near eastern New Guinea.

² Man. Conch. (2), v, p. 128.

³ Biol. Centr. Americana, Moll., p. 152.

Brazilian and Mexican species, and by the kindness of Professor Gwatkin, of Cambridge, England, who supplied a mounted preparation, I was enabled to figure the jaw and teeth of *Helix bifasciata*, the type of *Orychona*, and up to this time, the only species of the group to be dissected. At that time I called attention to the resemblance in dentition between *Orychona*, *Papuina*, *Polymita* and other arboreal *Helices*, ending with an allusion to the teeth of *Otostomus* (now known as *Drymæus aurisleporis*). Recently while studying the *aurisleporis* group of *Bulimi*, I was again struck with the extreme resemblance of their radulæ to that of *Orychona*. Now, since my former examination of *Orychona*, the study of *Bulimulid* groups has been revolutionized by the discovery of extremely characteristic generic and subgeneric characters in the sculpture of the nepionic shell, as the part formed within the egg is called; so that I at once examined the apex of the *Orychona*. The lens revealed in *H. bifasciata* and the other Brazilian species, the minutely "grated" sculpture of *Drymæus*! This combination of the very characteristic and peculiar nepionic sculpture of *Drymæus*⁴ with the equally characteristic dentition, conclusively show that *Orychona* is a *Drymæus* masquerading as a *Helix*. The Central American and Mexican species referred to *Orychona* have smooth apices, very different from the Brazilian group. There can be little doubt that these are true *Helicidæ*; and as they must now be cut adrift from *Orychona*, I propose to reinstate for their reception the group name *Leptarionta* Crosse & Fischer, based upon *Helix bicincta* Pfr. This will stand as a genus, and may still be left in my group *Belogona euadenia* (dart bearers with true glands), next to *Lysinoe*, until more is known of the soft parts. At least one of the species, *L. trigonostoma*, is known to have a serrate keel on the tail like *Lysinoe*.

Figures of the apices of *Orychona* and its *Bulimulid* allies may be found in the current volume of the Manual of Conchology. The evidence supplied by Semper, Hedley and myself that true *Helices* often appear disguised as *Bulimi*, now finds its counterpart in the *Bulimulidæ*, in such *Helicoid* species as *Bulimulus eremothauma* Pils., and that worst cheat of all, *Drymæus* (*Orychona*) *bifasciatus* Burrow.

⁴ *Drymæus* includes not only the *Aurisleporis* group and the flaring lipped *Bulimuli* like *serperastus*, but also "*Bulimulus*" *dormani* and *multilineatus* among Floridian species, either of which, if unworn, will show the apical sculpture alluded to under a sufficiently strong lens. See NAUTILUS, IX p. 114.